



N.O.W. News

Official publication of the *Numismatists Of Wisconsin*



Numismatists of Wisconsin is incorporated in the state of Wisconsin as a non-stock nonprofit tax exempt corporation. Contributions are tax deductible. The objective of Numismatists of Wisconsin is to encourage and promote interest in numismatics, to cultivate friendly relations between Wisconsin collectors of numismatic items and Wisconsin coin clubs, and to encourage, educate, and assist new numismatic hobbyists. All resources of the organization shall be used to further these objectives. Dues are \$10 per year and entitles participants to N.O.W. News, this quarterly publication

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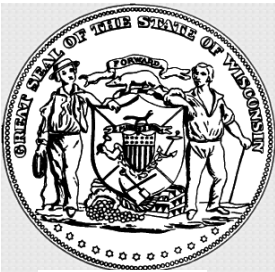
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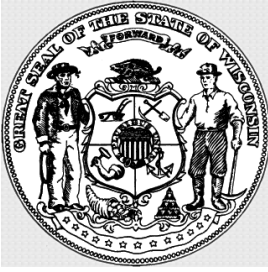
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SHOW CALENDAR.....Inside Back Cover

ON THE COVER: Our cover piece for this issue comes from Tom Casper, and is a uniface medal depicting the Wisconsin State Seal. It is brass, weighs 11 grams, measures 30mm x 30mm. The reverse has 4 numbers stamped on it, 1456. The 56 are upside down from the 14. Tom estimates the time frame of issue to be approximately 1900 - 1930. The earliest state seal depicting the WI coat of arms was developed in 1851 under the direction of Governor Nelson Dewey, this is essentially what our seal looks like today, however, several modifications were made over the years beginning in 1881. The basic elements are still there: The coat of arms in the center, with sailor and miner flanked left and right respectively, the “Forward” banner, with badger beneath, horns of plenty and 13 stars below the coat of arms. While somewhat crude, our cover subject most closely resembles the earliest model 1851. Perhaps it was issued somewhat earlier than 1900? There are file marks on both sides that suggest someone worked on this piece by hand, perhaps cutting the planchet down from a larger size, or cut it from a badge medal or fob? Badge medals and fobs frequently have blank reverses. Tokens and medals are normally struck on both sides. The two pair of numbers on the reverse, upside down from each other are puzzling. They might be die numbers from the striking or an order number. If any NOW members would be interested in researching this medal further, please share your results!



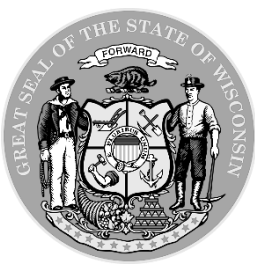
1851



1881



1931



Present

From the Editor

Season's Greetings fellow NOW members! 'Tis the season to enjoy numismatics! Oh, you may be distracted with other things this time of year, like holiday parties, decorating, baking cookies, exchanging gifts, celebrating any number of religious rituals, and tolerating in-laws. But let that not detour you from the ultimate goal of gifting yourself a new numismatic treasure! And, in the spirit of giving, why not give someone you love (or like) the ultimate numismatic gift – a membership to NOW! For just \$10 you can give them year-round pleasure, much better than a gift card to that over-priced coffee shop, or that tasteless sub shop, or a cardboard pizza pie. DO IT TODAY! Send in a gift membership for a friend, along with YOUR MEMBERSHIP DUES (it's that time again). Please don't delay, and make sure you send in your votes for your favorite NOW NEWS articles – your ballot and remittance envelope are enclosed.

When you vote, dare I say, you will have a hard time choosing from all the excellent articles turned in this past year by your fellow members. This issue is no exception. Starting off with Mark Benvenuto's take on Half Dimes and the wonderful coins in the recent Pogue collection auctions. Next Fred Borgmann tells us about Milwaukee's Natatorium. What's a natatorium you ask? Read on to find out. Jerry Binsfeld continues his fascinating look at coin values over the last 35 years, this time it's Key Dates. Then I tell you about a counterfeit half dollar that I know and love. All the usual features are there as well, including: NOW News and Notes (Exciting news about the recent digitization of our entire 53 year run of NOW NEWS!!), Club News, BOOKS!, Show Calendar, and ANA News (*The Numismatist* enters the digital age).

A CALL FOR ARTICLES. You will take note that on your voting ballot for the writing awards, 2015 saw 10 different authors submitting quality articles! That is fantastic! We get the privilege of learning from our fellow members about diverse numismatic subjects. Note also that there are short, one page articles, as well as long eight-to-ten page articles. All are happily accepted! Also, the articles written often have no Wisconsin connection – that is cool with us! There is no requirement that insists a WI connection. Ideally, I would love to be able to publish 5 original articles every issue, submitted by 5



different authors! That would be 20 articles a year by 20 different authors! LET'S DO IT! Won't you please be the next new NOW NEWS contributor? Share your experience and knowledge with the rest of the club. You know the email address: jkreichenberger@hotmail.com. Don't be shy, we are happy to help in any way, illustrations, formatting, whatever. You can even send hard copy through snail mail: PO Box 3572, Oshkosh, WI, 54903. THANK YOU!

Now it is time for your editor to go sample the batch of gingerbread men that just marched out of the oven under the watchful eyes of my sweet girls.

Peace and Happiness to all of you! - Jeff Reichenberger



N.O.W. NEWS AND NOTES

NOW Board of Governors

Your Board of Governors met on October 4th at Serb Hall in Milwaukee in conjunction with the Milwaukee Numismatic Societies' annual show. Present were President Thad Streeter, Secretary/Treasurer Bill Oldenburg, Governors Tom Casper, Matt Janzen, Leon Saryan, Joel Edler, Cliff Mishler, Darrell Luedtke, Lee Hartz, and Jeff Reichenberger. Also in attendance were NOW member guests Darlene Anderson and Mike McAndrews.



Agenda topics discussed included:

NOW Show Calendar – the 2016 NOW Show will be held on March 31, April 1 & 2 at the Crowne Plaza Milwaukee Airport, with the South Shore Coin Club and Milwaukee Numismatic Society hosting. Mr. McAndrews, who represents the SSCC, explained preparations for the show were going well. ALL NOW members are encouraged to partake and support this terrific 3-day event.

The 2017 NOW show is scheduled for Madison, with the Madison Coin Club hosting. Date is TBD.

The 2018 NOW show is tentatively scheduled for Wausau, with the Wisconsin Valley Coin Club mentioned as possible host. Date is TBD.

Membership Status – the membership stands at 269! We are happily growing! All members are encouraged to pass the word and help recruit new members. Let's break the 300 barrier! Signing up new members is easy – just give them the form in the back of your NOW NEWS and have them send it

in with the dirt cheap ten dollar annual fee. Our booth is open at various shows throughout the state. Stop and visit anytime!

2016 Budget – the budget for the upcoming year was unanimously approved. Our income includes advertising in NOW NEWS, membership dues, NOW show revenues, interest on deposits, and miscellaneous intake. Our expenses include NOW NEWS production, webmaster website maintenance, educational offerings, and miscellaneous expenditures.

Digitization of NOW NEWS – we have been given an amazing opportunity to have our entire 50+ years of NOW NEWS digitized through the Newman Numismatic Portal, which the board unanimously approved. See the article detailing this venture on pages 5-7.

Website – it is always important in this day and age to keep the website up to date, interesting, and viable. The board approved the ongoing maintenance of the website as part of the new budget. Check it out often at numismatistsofwisconsin.org

Your Board of Governors meets at least 3 times a year at various venues throughout Wisconsin, usually in conjunction with a show. The General Membership meeting is held yearly at the N.O.W. show.

2016 DUES NOTICE

Please note that your ‘Dues are Due’ remittance envelope is in THIS issue. PLEASE send in your dues in a timely manner...like right now!! Your yearly dues keep your club running and viable. It helps finance the quarterly printing of your N.O.W. News, and it supports our efforts to educate and promote the hobby. So send in your dues ASAP! Just \$10 per year! Great bargain! **THANK YOU!!**

2015 WRITER’S AWARDS

It is time once again to vote for your favorite articles written by your fellow NOW members over the past year. Please take the time to show your appreciation for all of the wonderful articles by voting. **The Voting ballot for the 2015 Writer’s Awards is in THIS issue! Please fill it out and send it in the enclosed remittance envelope. (Along with your dues :) THANK YOU!!**

Show Reports

Milwaukee MNS

October 4, 2015 – the annual show at Serb Hall was set up as early as 7am by 29 MNS volunteers. All booth holders arrived by 9am. The show was busy all day with 450 paid attendees plus 30 children. The raffle table sold 602 tickets. There were 30 cases of collector exhibits by 6 members on 16 tables. All in all a very successful show. A big ‘Thank You’ to all the members who worked the show. Please mark your calendars for next year’s show which will be held on Sunday, October 2, 2016 at the same location. –*Tom Casper, show chairman*

Green Bay – Nicolet Coin Club

October 25, 2015 – annual fall show at Comfort Suites Rock Garden. Show Chairman Roger Bohn reported the show was good. Dealers reported positive results in spite of foot traffic being down just a bit. Bullion is down and holding for now which brings some buyers, but when metals start to move so will the people start to be more active. Green Bay's location brings collectors from all over the state and upper Michigan. It was a good time slot this year with the Packer's bye week and several weeks before deer hunters turned their attention to the woods which helped make a good show. Don't miss the Nicolet Coin Club's regular spring show April 24, 2016.

Madison

November 1, 2015 – Madison resumed its fall show at the Sheraton Hotel after a multi-year hiatus. Show Chairman John Krueger reported 'the show went well, we had a full house, and most dealers were happy with the results. Next year we will be more aggressive with sending out post cards, flyers given out at earlier shows, and get the word out through more advertising. We will get Madison back to having a solid regular fall show.'

Kenosha – Kenosha Coin Club

November 7, 2015 –and- December 6, 2015 – Jerry Binsfeld reports there was a steady flow of patrons from mid-a.m. to mid-p.m. at both 24 table shows. Most dealers were pleased with the results and collectors by-and-large found what they were looking for. Jerry gave both shows a 'B' grade.

Chicago – PCDA National Coin and Currency Convention

November 18-20, 2015 - The Professional Currency Dealers Association held their 30th Annual National Coin and Currency Convention at the Crowne Plaza Chicago O'Hare. The event featured a 55 booth specialty bourse heavily weighted with dealers in rare currency, with booth holders from 24 states.

Commercial highlight of the convention was a Lyn Knight Auction on that included both United States and foreign currency. The Central States Numismatic Society, partnering with the PCDA and the Chicago Coin Club, sponsored a four speaker educational forum on Sunday.

Patricia Foley, Convention Chairman for the PCDA event, announced that the 2016 dates for the 31st Annual PCDA sponsored convention will be November 16-19 at the Crowne Plaza.

Bourse Chairman Kevin Foley mentioned that the name of the event has been changed to the "National Currency and Coin Convention" for 2016 and beyond because 75% of the dealers specialize in currency, while the remaining 25% comprise coin dealers.

Dealers interested in booth space at the 2016 National Currency and Coin Convention can contact Foley for an application at kfoley2@wi.rr.com or by calling (414) 807-0116.

NOW NEWS ARCHIVES GOES DIGITAL!

Have you ever wondered what your club was like back in the early days of origin? Have you been curious about the conception and organization of NOW? Do you wish you could remember a certain article you recall reading in NOW NEWS? Would you like to research the NOW archives to find information about that coin or token you just purchased? Would you like to study the NOW NEWS articles of award winning authors and NOW legends such as Gene Johnson, Chet Krause, Cliff Mishler, Ron and Phyllis Calkins, and others?

Well now you can!! And easier than ever before. All of this research was possible before of course, but the rub was that you had to physically go to where the archives are stored, dig through the many boxes, page through countless issues to find your quarry, then make copies or hand copy the article. A task some would consider tedious if not logistically and financially prohibitive. *But now you can do all of this with a click of your computer mouse!*

How did this come about? Let's start at the beginning. There have been rumblings over the past year in the numismatic press about the 'NEWMAN NUMISMATIC PORTAL' (NNP). Underwritten by the Newman Numismatic Education Foundation, the Numismatic Portal was organized, its purpose is to digitize as much numismatic knowledge into electronic searchable form as possible. Below is a promotional email they sent out to potential interested parties:



The Newman Numismatic Portal seeks to unite the world's numismatic information into a single, searchable database, accessible to all on a free and forever basis. Administered through Washington University in St. Louis, the Portal is funded by a grant from the Eric P. Newman Numismatic Education Society and began development in December 2014.

This summer has been busy with the establishment of our scanning center, located in Olin Library on the Washington University campus. Since June, we've scanned several hundred documents, representing over 30,000 pages, and these are visible through Internet Archive at <https://archive.org/details/newmannumismatic>. We've partnered with Internet Archive to upload and

host our scanned material, and this collection will increase on a daily basis as items are added.

While Internet Archive acts as a warehouse for our scanned documents, we are in parallel developing the website that will be known as the Newman Numismatic Portal. The Portal will be able to search across the scanned documents as well as a store of electronic content acquired from other sources such as auction companies. The Portal will go online in 2016. In the meantime, our scanned material, via Internet Archive, is freely available to all for scholarly purposes.

We are especially interested in acquiring in-copyright content for the Portal. If you represent an organization that wishes to digitize its publications at no cost to you, we are an ideal candidate to offload the scanning effort. Already several specialty clubs within American numismatics have given us permission to digitize and present back issues of their journals. We also seek unique materials such as manuscripts, archives, bid books, and the like. Finally, several collectors have loaned us rare items such as early U.S. Mint Reports. It is through such collaboration that the Portal will achieve its objective of sharing numismatic information with all.

As part of the promotion, the organizers held a symposium at the ANA World's Fair of Money this past summer to discuss the workings of the project. Your NOW NEWS editor was in attendance and thought of the possibility of NOW NEWS going digital. Subsequently, I contacted Len Augsburger, chairman of the project, and he indicated that NOW NEWS archives would be a perfect application for the Newman Numismatic Portal. All we had to do was get the hard copies to the NNP scanning center. He indicated that this would be absolutely free of charge to the club, NNP scans the entire run of NOW NEWS and picks up all of the freight charges! This is the very definition of a WIN-WIN situation!

The next step was to present the idea to your NOW Board of Governors, who unanimously approved. Now it was time to gather all 50+ years of printed copies of NOW NEWS and prepare them for shipping. Our archives, you may or may not know, are stored at Gary Rosencrans' shop - Gary's Coins and Stamps, in Wisconsin Rapids. Gary generously holds our archives (which are available for any NOW member to peruse or use) in the back of his shop. The archives – approximately 10 large cartons – holds many memories of past NOW functions, including NOW show medals, awards, cancelled medal dies, etc. and of course, NOW NEWS. Our NOW NEWS archives survive largely thanks to the late Gene Johnson, who kept them meticulously in order and had them bound in book form.



Gary's Coins and Stamps. Wisconsin Rapids, WI



Gary Rosencrans displays a portion of the NOW archives.

The NNP staff indicated that loose copies scan a bit better than those in bound book form, so the search began to find quantities of old loose copies. There were some in the archives along with the bound copies, and Clifford Mishler provided volumes of his personal holdings to fill in the gaps. There were some issues that we just could not find loose copies of, and therefore, the NNP would have to make do with bound copies of those.

In mid-September I gathered and mailed the 31 pound boxed archives via FedEx to the scanning center at Washington University in St. Louis. I was kept abreast that the carton arrived safely and when the digitizing had begun and the progress thereof. In early November I was informed that the process was close to completion and was given a link to check out the results. I was pleased and astonished at the quality of the scans, even the bound copies came through looking sharp. By mid-November the job was complete and our entire run of NOW NEWS, approximately 6000 pages, is ready to search!

To access the archives you will have to go the 'Internet Archive' website at archive.org. Type in Newman Numismatic Portal, click on the link. There you will find 'Wisconsin' on the right side list.

Click it and all of the NOW NEWS archives will appear. Click any one of them and you will be able to turn the pages one by one. There is also an enlarge icon which can make it easier to read. OR – you can type in the following link: [https://archive.org/details/newmannumismatic?&and\[\]=N.O.W.%20News](https://archive.org/details/newmannumismatic?&and[]=N.O.W.%20News). Please check it out and have fun with it!

This is your access to the archives as they exist under the temporary hold of 'Internet Archive'. As explained in the above promotional information, once the NNP's own website is up and running in 2016, the archives will be transferred over there, where it will be more streamlined and initially searchable by periodical title and year. Eventually the search engine will become more sophisticated offering searches by author, subject, date, etc.

Thanks to Eric P. Newman, his foundation, and the Newman Numismatic Portal for doing this, and to Len Augsburg for helping us through the process. It is a fantastic opportunity for Numismatists of Wisconsin, and a wonderful endeavor for the entire numismatic community. We are proud to be a supporter of the NNP and proud to be one of the first such club journals to be processed and hope that others will follow knowing the benefits, ease, and proficiency with which the NNP has approached the enormous project.

CLUB NEWS

Wisconsin Valley Coin Club

Meeting news from WVCC. In September the club enjoyed a presentation on grading British coins by Charles Klopstein. In October they held their members only auction and planned for the Annual Club Banquet. Both events unfolded to rousing success! November brought a wonderful discussion on coins and currency of WWI and WWII. In addition they began preparations for the Annual Christmas Party to be held on December 1. The January 5 meeting discussion will feature Favorite Canadian Coins.

BIG NEWS! The Howard Johnson's in Wausau, where the club always held their **ANNUAL COIN SHOW** has closed. They have secured a **NEW LOCATION: THE PLAZA HOTEL**. 201 N. 17th Av. Wausau, WI. The date remains **April 17, 2016**.

The WVCC is a vibrant and active club with many member participants in meetings, presentations, and volunteer opportunities. If you are interested in becoming a member or visiting one of their meetings, please contact Terry Kafka at fluff885@mtc.net.

Milwaukee Numismatic Society

MNS had a busy September/October preparing for and executing their annual coin show on October 4th, which was once again a huge success. In addition, the educational exhibits were outstanding. There were 30 cases of exhibits on 16 tables. Awards were presented at the MNS banquet on October 24th. 1st Place and Best in Show went to Leon Saryan for "Armenia's Agony: Commemorative Medals of the 1915 Armenian Genocide." 2nd Place went to Floyd Aprill, "The United States Mint in Manila." 3rd Place went to Bruce Bartelt, "The King as Hero". Congratulations! MNS meets at 7pm on the 3rd Thursday every month in the Community Meeting Room in the lower level of Mayfair Mall. Visitors interested in numismatics are welcome. December 17th will be the Holiday Party and Elections of Officers. The first meeting of 2016 will be January 21.

Madison Coin Club

MCC held their November meeting on the 18th. Bill Barreau gave a wonderful presentation on Civil War Tokens. The club also discussed their successful fall show which was held on Nov. 1. Many of the club members stepped up and volunteered to make the show a success. Thank You! Also, 11 new members signed up! Wow! That's fantastic! The December "meeting" held on the 7th, was the club's annual Holiday get-together where they invaded the Home Town Buffet. A short business meeting after the buffet concluded with the election of officers for the coming year. Next meeting Tuesday, January 5th at the Ashman Library at 7pm.

Send your Club news to: jkreichenberger@hotmail.com

COIN CLUB MEETINGS

BARRON COUNTY COIN CLUB

Meets 7:00 p.m. the 2nd Thursday at the School Administration Bldg., 700 Augusta St., Rice Lake. Contact Barron County Coin Club, P.O. Box 362, Rice Lake, WI 54868.

CHIPPEWA VALLEY COIN CLUB

Meets at 7:00 on the 1st Thursday of each month at the VFW Post 305. 1300 Starr Av. in Eau Claire, WI. Contact: L. Engman Sec/Treas. 1507 Grissom Dr. Eau Claire, WI 54703. Email: cvcc1964@gmail.com

ELGIN IL COIN CLUB

Meets at 7:30 1st Wednesday at Elgin Moose Fam.Ctr. 925 S. McLean Blvd. Elgin, IL 60123. Contact Don Cerny, PO Box 651, S. Elgin, IL 60177. Ph. 847-888-1449.

FISHBOWL WOODEN NICKEL COIN CLUB

Meets the 3rd Thursday (April-October); at the Siren Senior Center, 23943 State Road 35, Siren, 6:30 traders; 7:00 business meeting (Nov.-March) at 24136 State Road 35/70, Siren. Contact Gary Schauls, 2702 150th St., Luck, WI 54853-3811. Phone 715-472-2002.

FOND DU LAC COIN CLUB

Meets the 2nd Tuesday (May thru Sept.) at 6pm at the Senior Center East 2nd Street in Fond du Lac. Contact Fond du Lac Coin Club, PO Box 254, Oshkosh, WI 54903.

FOX VALLEY COIN CLUB

Meets at 6:30 the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month at Good Will – Community Entrance, 1800 Appleton Road, Menasha. Corner of HWYs 47 and 10.

INTNL BANK NOTE SOCIETY – MIDWEST CHAPTER

Meets at 1:00 the 2nd Saturday each month at North Shore Library, 6800 North Port Washington Road in Glendale. www.mcfls.org/northshorelibrary.

KENOSHA COIN CLUB

Meets at 7:30 on the 1st Thursday of each month (except July & August) at 3030 39th Ave, Kenosha. Contact: Jerry Binsfeld 262-657-4653.

KETTLE MORaine COIN & STAMP CLUB

Meets at 7:30 on the 2nd Thursday of each month at Silverbrook Middle School, 120 N. Silverbrook Drive in West Bend. Youth meeting at 6:30. Contact: Dave Hunsicker 262-338-6064.

LAKE COUNTY COIN CLUB

Meets 7:00 the 1st Tues. each month at the Gurnee Police Facility. Contact LCCC, POBox 94, Gurnee, IL, 60031-0094, lakecountycoinclub@gmail.com

LAKELAND COIN & STAMP CLUB

Meets at 6:45 the first and third Thursday of each month at Lakeland Senior Center, Woodruff, WI.

MADISON COIN CLUB

The club tries to meet at 7:00 pm on the 1st or 2nd Monday or Tuesday of each month at the Alicia Ashman Branch of the Madison Public Library, 733 N. High Point Road. Contact Tom Galway. Phone 608-238-1722.

MANITOWOC COIN CLUB

No regular monthly meetings. An annual coin show is held in February. Contact Al Hrudka 920-775-4979.

MILWAUKEE NUMISMATIC SOCIETY

Meets at 7:00 on the 3rd Thursday of each month at the Mayfair Mall Community Room, 2500 N. Mayfair Road in Wauwatosa (use #2 entrance, east side of mall). Contact www.milwaukeeenumismaticsociety.com.

NICOLET COIN CLUB

Meets at 6:30 on the 2nd & 4th Tuesday at the Bay Family Restaurant corner of Military and 9th St. in G. Bay. Contact Roger Bohn: 920-819-7294, boneyard7@yahoo.com

RACINE NUMISMATIC SOCIETY

Meets at 7:00 on the 2nd Thursday at Castlewood Restaurant, 2815 Wisconsin St., Sturtevant. Contact Bill Spencer 262-637-7766. (no July or Aug. mtg).

ROCKFORD AREA COIN CLUB

Meets 6:00 Thursday at North Suburban Women's Club, 6320 N. 2nd St., Loves Park, www.exonumia.com/RACC.htm. Contact: Rockford Area Coin Club, c/o Gary Melby 803 Blackhawk Blvd. South Beloit, IL 61080. 815-977-1962

SHEBOYGAN COIN CLUB

Meets at 7:00 the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month at Maple Lanes, 3107 S. Business Dr., in Sheboygan. Contact Sheboygan Coin Club, PO Box 907, Sheboygan, WI 53082.

SOUTH SHORE COIN CLUB

Meets at 7:00 p.m. on the 2nd Tuesday of month at St. Roman's Parish Office, 1710 W. Bolivar Ave. Milw. Cntct: Steven Jendusa 414-364-3772. www.sccmke.org.

WAUKESHA COIN CLUB

Meets at 7:00 p.m. on the 1st Wednesday of month at the Waukesha Salvation Army at 445 Madison St., Waukesha. Contact Forrest Schumacher, 2300 Avalon Drive, Waukesha, WI 53186. Ph: 262-542-5990. www.waukeshaco-inclub.com.

WISCONSIN VALLEY COIN CLUB

Meets at 6:30 on the 1st & 3rd Tuesday of each month at Schofield Coin & Hobby, 754 Grand Ave., Schofield, WI 54476. (June, July, Aug. mtg 3rd Tue.) Contact Thad Streeter 5002 Tanya St. Schofield, WI 54478 Ph.715-574-2777.

Central States Numismatic Society

131 West Layton Avenue – Suite 212

Milwaukee, WI 53207

www.centralstates.info

Kevin Foley – Convention Chairman

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September 23, 2015

Central States Numismatic Society Announce Future Convention Dates

Patricia Foley, Bourse Chairman and Secretary for the Central States Numismatic Society has announced that the organization recently extended its contract with the Schaumburg Renaissance Hotel and Convention Center through 2021. The facility is located at 1551 North Thoreau Drive in the Northwest Chicago suburb roughly ten miles from O'Hare Airport. She said, "Our event was first held at the Schaumburg Convention Center in 2012. We received so much positive feedback from our dealer and collector attendees that our Board decided to make a multi-year commitment at that facility. Our next convention, our 77th Anniversary, will have bourse dates of April 27-30, 2016. We had an existing contract with the facility for April 26-29, 2017, as well as April 25-28, 2018. Our President, Bruce Perdue, has just signed additional contracts for April 24-27, 2019; April 22-25, 2020 and April 21-24, 2021. Having firm contract commitments so far in advance enables other numismatic conventions to make more secure plans for their own future events and be confident that they will not be conflicting with our much larger convention and its national following."

Foley, continued, "The Schaumburg Renaissance Hotel is directly connected to the adjoining convention center, making it possible for our participants to enjoy the added safety of transiting from the convention events to the hotel's dining outlets and their sleeping rooms without having to venture outside. The really abundant free parking and the close proximity of the parking lot to the hotel itself, as well as the coin show exhibit hall, has proven especially popular with our attendees While I realize that no place can be everyone's first choice, I just receive so many compliments about how attractive and convenient our site is that I'm especially glad we've been able to extend with them through 2021."

Convention Chairman Kevin Foley added, "What is especially gratifying to both the Bourse Chairman and myself is that fact that our bourse area has experienced a steady growth since we came to Schaumburg. We are now up to 306 booths, which is actually the practical capacity of our exhibit hall. No matter how

much proselytizing a convention might do, in the final analysis the dealers who support our organization with their decisions to be part of our bourse or not, have clearly decided that Schaumburg deserves their vote of confidence. The Renaissance Hotel is simply a first rate facility and I've just lost count of how many of our booth holders come up to me and our Bourse Chairman at other shows and conventions to let us know how much they like Schaumburg. When I first saw the facility it was still under construction and I had to wear a hard hat during my first two visits. What makes it a particularly prime convention site is the fact that the Chicago market enjoys the presence of two major airports served by full sized aircraft, Midway and O'Hare and is only 85 miles from a third, Milwaukee's General Mitchell International Airport. Since we've come here the Illinois Highway Department decided to add an exit to the I-90 freeway, which runs right past the hotel, so that auto visitors in the future will find the hotel parking lot less than 100 yards from the new exit."

Bourse Chairman Patricia Foley also mentioned, "Here we are a full eight months from our convention dates and we have only 29 booths still available. That really says something about how popular our event and the convention center are with our booth holders. It is just a really positive feeling being associated with a numismatic convention that is experiencing such growth and acceptance."

CSNS President Bruce Perdue added his own perspective, "Schaumburg is just an all-around great place for a numismatic convention. The hotel staff is especially security conscious and provides 24 hour patrols in the parking lot during our event. The hotel has almost everything anyone coming to our convention could want, three different dining outlets in a wide range of prices from deli food to fine dining, a well-equipped health club and an especially generous sized swimming pool. There are dozens of restaurants within a two mile radius of the property and it is just across the freeway from the Woodfield Mall, a shopping destination that everyone in the Chicago area knows about. What I think is one of the greatest benefits for both our collectors and dealers, however, is the business friendly environment in Illinois. There is no sales tax on coins, bullion or currency in Illinois. This makes our attendees purchasing dollars stretch a bit further than if we were in a state with a sales tax. In addition, the Village of Schaumburg, which actually owns the hotel and convention center, understand that conventions give their community an economic boost and provide us with the ability to have our event and not have our booth holders burdened by complex or intrusive business regulations."

Dealers interested in one of the few remaining booths at the 2016 convention can contact Bourse Chairman Patricia Foley at foleylawoffice@gmail.com. The sleeping room rate for the 2016 convention at the Renaissance hotel is \$155. Reservations can be made by calling the hotel at (847) 303-4100 and mentioning "Central States Numismatic 2016". Anyone experiencing difficulty making a reservation under the room block should call Convention Chairman Kevin Foley at (414) 807-0116 for assistance. Complete convention details are available on the CSNS website, www.centralstates.info.

* * * *

Half Dimes For Less Than Half A Million?

By Mark Benvenuto #2089

The recent auction of Part 1 of the D. Brent Pogue Collection (May 19, 2015 Stack's-Bowers and Sotheby's) highlighted some truly amazing half dimes, including an absolutely beautiful 1792 half disme, one of our nation's first federally-issued coins. A person's hopes and desires really soar when one of these astonishing rarities crosses the auction block. But even though it's fun to look at coins at that highest of levels, the starting bid of \$350,000 – more than the cost of most homes in the US – pretty quickly deflates any soaring hope that we'll ever own such a coin.



This beautiful 1792 Half Disme was the first Pogue coin on the auction block on May 19, 2015. It realized \$440,625.

On the flip side of things though, a big-time auction can make us focus our attention on the same coins, and perhaps see what is out there that is considerably more affordable than a single piece which costs close to half a million dollars. So, just what half dimes are available for prices we might seriously consider?

The initial output of just about any denomination of silver coins from the young Mint can politely be called spotty, and the fact that plenty of the earliest silver coins were made at the request of wealthy folks who deposited the silver and asked for specific coins in return meant that half dimes were relatively rare beasts even in the years they were being produced. Thus, any of the Flowing Hair design or the Draped Bust designs which were made up until 1805 are expensive pieces today. Even a piece down in G-4 condition will run about \$1,500 – probably more than most of us wish to ante up for a well-worn coin.



The second coin auctioned of the Pogue Collection was this stunning 1794 Flowing Hair half dime. Price realized \$305,500.

Despite this rough start for small silver, when the half dime denomination again got underway in 1829, now with the Capped Bust design work of Mr. William Kneass, the mintage figures jumped and jumped in a big way. That first year, 1829, saw an official tally of 1,230,000 coins – a higher number than all the combined half dimes ever minted before, from 1792 – 1805. Adding to this good news, almost every year that the Capped Bust half dimes were produced saw mintages of over a million pieces. The 1832 and the 1837 come in a bit below that, but the 1835 saw over 2.7 million produced, and the 1836 came in only a bit behind, with 1.9 million. All this means something, and that something is: these half dimes are indeed collectible.



We mentioned right at the beginning that we are looking for affordable half dimes, and now we have a series that just might qualify. So we need to ask: what defines “affordable?” If the answer is, \$10 - \$20, well, we’re probably never going to see any affordable half dimes. But if \$100 still qualifies as affordable, a lot of possibilities open up for the Capped Bust half dimes. Since there are relatively few folks who collect these nine dates that make up the series, each of them are available for about \$100 in either F-12 or VF-20 grades. There are some varieties that are considered scarce, and that may cost a bit more. But one of each date is within reach for \$100 apiece.

Knowing that \$100 can get us a toe hold in the half dime denomination, the next direction to look might be to the much more common Seated Liberty half dimes. The Seated Liberty design, the artwork of Mr. Christian Gobrecht that graced every denomination of our silver coinage from these little half dimes all the way to the hefty silver dollars, lasted on the half dimes from 1837 all the way to the end of the denomination's lifetime in 1873. There are plenty of memorable dates, changes in design, and eye-popping rarities among these half dimes. A few of the notable ones, at least in terms of half dimes that are affordable, have to include: the 1838, with 2.2 million; the 1853, with 13.2 million; the 1854, with 5.7 million; the 1856, with 4.8 million; the 1857, with 7.2 million; the 1858, with



3.5 million; the 1861, with 3.3 million; and the 1872, with 2.9 million. Yes, there are plenty of other dates with mintages of more than a million coins, including some with the 'O' of the New Orleans branch Mint. As well, there are some serious rarities, including the unique 1870-S. But it's those common dates on which we wish to concentrate.

We mentioned that the Capped Bust half dimes could be nabbed in decent conditions for about \$100. That same \$100 will land most of these common Seated Liberty half dimes in better grades – meaning EF-40 to AU-50. What's more, a look through any of the major price lists indicate that some of the far less common dates among the series, especially those at the tail end of the series, are available in MS-60 for about \$150. That's not bad for a mint state coin that is well over a century old.

In what probably qualifies as a really neat footnote to this series, for almost every year of the Seated Liberty half dimes, there were some proofs produced. They are not at all common, usually having a mintage below 1,000 coins, but they do command prices as low as \$600. Admittedly, that's not pocket change, but to acquire a proof Seated Liberty half dime at a price like this has got to be a great moment for anyone building a serious collection.

Even if you are a truly frugal collector (I have used that term for myself quite often, as it sounds so much better than 'colossal cheapskate'), it appears that \$200 can start a person off with a type set of two half dimes, one Capped Bust and one Seated Liberty. From there, each collector can assemble their own collection as they wish. But it's good to know that half dimes are still quite collectible, even if we can't do more than dream about a mint state version of the 1792 half disme.

This article originally appeared in the Maryland Numismatist, Autumn 2015, Vol. 43, No.3.

Photos of the Pogue coins courtesy of Stack's Bowers Galleries.

Milwaukee Natatorium Badge

by Fred J Borgmann #1175

This nickel plated badge is a 51.4 x 60mm, six pointed star shaped badge which apparently had ball tips on each of the six points as indicated by the light tool marks on each point. The ornate obverse is inscribed "ASST.SUPT. NATATORIUM MILWAUKEE". The reverse inscription "A.S." above "W.S. No. 1" indicates that this badge is from the West Side Natatorium on North Ave. which would date it no earlier than 1902.

This Milwaukee Natatorium Assistant Superintendent's badge takes us back in time to the turn of the last century when the term "bathing" also described the activity of swimming as we know it today. It was a time when foreign immigrants were streaming into the city and epidemics were a constant threat to public health. Bathing as we use the term today was not a widespread practice and only the wealthier homes had bath tubs and indoor plumbing. Even the White House did not have a bath tub until President Taft (1909-1913) had one installed and promptly got stuck in it. Epidemic diseases were thought to be caused by the unsanitary conditions of the foreign immigrants and so in 1881 the Common Council called for the construction of the first public bath house in Milwaukee. Where and when it was actually built is not listed in any of my sources. By 1894 however, the city had its first "Natatorium" featuring an indoor swimming pool at 1646 South 4th Street. The "South Side Natatorium" was in operation until 1977. From 1979 - 1984 it was a restaurant featuring live dolphins but went bankrupt within five years. In 1902 the "West Side Natatorium" was built at 1609 West North Avenue. Six years later another was built on the East Side at 243 East Center Street. The South West Side got their Natatorium in 1911 at 1645 West Greenfield Avenue. These were all so successful that in 1917 another, farther south, South Side Natatorium was built at 2361 South 10th Street. All of these were still listed in the 1977 Milwaukee Telephone Book.

It must have been quite a novel experience for the Milwaukeans of a century ago to be able to go swimming and ice skating on the same cold winter day.



CIVIL WAR TOKEN SOCIETY ISSUES COUNTERFEIT WARNING

This warning was an insert in the winter issue of 'The Civil War Token Journal' written by Pat Flannery.

There are fake CWTs being sold on the internet by three known foreign sources, from Greece, Cyprus, and the Czech Republic. The old saying applies: "If it seems too good to be true, then it's probably a fake."

One of my better customers came to our table at the Whitman show in Baltimore. The customer had a token from Plainfield, Indiana #IN770C-1b, in high grade. The telltale signs were low rims and off color. There is also a known fake from Detroit, MI MI225K.

Please know who you are dealing with when purchasing CWTs (or any numismatic item for that matter). It will provide you with peace of mind and save you from heartache later on. The Civil War Token Society is trying to determine the scope of these fakes and develop a plan of action.

The help take steps to eliminate the CWT counterfeit problem, the CWTS will need to know which society members have purchased fake pieces and where they came from, including what country of origin, what internet site, what dealer, etc. To stop this will take a lot of work and we need your help. I would ask that if you have a suspicious CWT from one of the above mentioned countries or elsewhere, please submit it to one of the third party grading services. The Society can then develop a paper trail and have the internet sites take action, but it cannot be done without proof.

We hope to get the support of CWTS members. We must be diligent and aware of the problem and provide information to stop this outrage. The Society will also provide more information as it becomes available. Please do not take action on your own. We must tackle this in solidarity, have all our ducks in a row, and develop a solid plan with our attorneys before we take action. Please help our cause by reporting any suspicious CWTs out there to the Civil War Token Society. Thank you!

CWTS Governor Pat Flannery, p-flannery@sbcglobal.net

CWTS President Paul Cunningham, cunninghamchips@hotmail.com

Founded in 1967, the **Civil War Token Society** is a national, non-profit organization dedicated to help stimulate interest and research in the field of Civil War token collecting. Activities include publishing a journal (*The Civil War Token Journal*), conducting auctions, maintaining a reference library, providing an attribution service for a nominal fee, establishing State chapters and conducting regional meetings. There are currently over 1,000 active members. Adult membership is \$18 annually, Youth membership is \$9. Visit www.cwtsociety.com

This message is not just for CWTS members. NOW members please take note and help them out if you can. -Editor



Announcement

New Plus-Only Service & Revised Restoration for 2016

December 2, 2015

PCGS graded many amazing coins in 2015, including the fabulous D. Brent Pogue collection. We take pride being the grading choice for all great collections, including your own.

2016 marks the 30th anniversary of PCGS and we have some exciting business updates planned.

Below are the announced changes that will take effect on January 4, 2016:

- **New Plus-Only Service for Reconsideration**

You will now have the option to select Plus-Only on your submissions. This is in addition to a suffix, whole grade, or any. For example, Everyman collectors can state a maximum grade of 58+.

- **Revised Restoration Service Pricing**

For general Restoration submissions, the new fee structure will be \$10 if the coin does not qualify for Restoration, and 2% of the final value of the coin (\$30 minimum) if it does qualify for Restoration. This 2% is *all-inclusive* – no additional grading fees apply!

For Modern Restoration submissions (1965 to date, \$1,000 Declared Value per coin max), the new fee structure will be \$10 if the coin does not qualify for Restoration, and \$22 per coin if it does qualify for Restoration. The \$22 is all-inclusive – no additional grading fees apply. Minimum coin requirements have been removed; you can now send as many or as few coins for Modern Restoration as you would like!

Non-restorable coins can still go through the grading process. Normal grading fees apply in addition to the \$10 fee.

- **Revised U.S.P.S. Fees**

Return shipping fees have slightly increased. However, we have also restructured the value limitations to allow higher insurance values at a lower cost to you. For complete details please see the Services and Fees page at PCGS.com after January 4, 2016.

We have other big plans for our 30th anniversary and will announce these in early 2016. For now, we encourage you to contact our Customer Service team if you have any questions.

Happy Collecting,
Don Willis
President, PCGS

N.O.W. MEMBERS AND FRIENDS ARE INVITED TO THREE SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN COIN SHOWS:

Kenosha Coin Club Show

Saturday, Nov. 7, 2015 • 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Kenosha Union Club, 3030 39th Ave., free admission and parking

GREAT FALL SHOW

THANKS!

**AWESOME
HOLIDAY SHOW
THANKS!**

Kenosha Holiday Coin Show

Sunday, Dec. 6, 2015 . 9am – 3pm

Kenosha Union Club, 3030 39th Ave., free admission and parking

ONE MORE SHOW TO GO – DON'T MISS IT !

Racine Numismatic Society's Coin Show

Sunday, February 28, 2016 • 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Roma Lodge, 7130 Spring St. Racine, Wisconsin free admission and parking

Remember, it's only half as much fun without you!

A 40 Year Chronicle of one 1837 counterfeit half dollar

by Jeff Reichenberger #1933

One afternoon in the late 1980's, Larry Spanbauer opened an unexpected package he received from El Paso, Texas. The long-forgotten contents within revealed old correspondence from himself and two other numismatists and a lovely counterfeit Capped Bust Half Dollar, along with a flood of memories.

In the mid to late seventies, this particular bogus coin spent a lot of time under the care of the United States Postal Service, traveling from dealer, to numismatic scholar, to counterfeit specialist, and back again. Only to end up back in the possession of the counterfeit specialist after he had 'retired' from that avocation. The coin now resides with the present author of this article and this story is about the long and winding road it traveled.

In the mid-seventies a coin dealer from El Paso, Texas by the name of George E. Martin, "Martin Coins" acquired a large collection claimed to contain many rarities. Among them was an 1837 lettered edge Capped Bust Half Dollar. Martin was quite certain of the authenticity of most of the coins he purchased and had those he was unsure of authenticated by specialists, like any wise dealer would do. All the coins came back genuine – all but one that is. Martin's contacts could not decide if the 1837 half dollar was authentic.

On July 11, 1977, Martin sent the half dollar and a letter to numismatic scholar and author Alan Herbert.* Herbert was a long-time columnist for Krause Publications and at the time wrote columns entitled 'Odd Corner', about error coins and other oddities, and 'Variety Logbook' which explored mint and die varieties. Herbert responded on July 22, 1977:

Dear George:

Thank you for your letter of 7/11 with the enclosed 1837 half dollar.

Frankly, I'm not qualified to pass on whether this is a genuine coin or not, as this is out of my area of specialization. From what I can see, it appears genuine. The weight is within specs at 208.8 grains. I'd suggest sending it to someone who specializes in the early half dollars – and I'd appreciate a copy of their findings as well.

From my standpoint, the coin has a repunched date, with 83/83, and if genuine will be listed in the CONE Register as B-01 for the date. I've taken a photo of the date, and will send along a copy as soon as they are processed.*

Sorry I can't be of more help on it.

Sincerely, Alan



**Variety
Logbook...**



by Alan Herbert, NLG

Box C, Deadwood, SD 57732

ANA R-67555, CONE LM-7
BIE LM-255, ANEC C-19, CNVCA LM-7

Please mention this number when replying

OCL- 12,771-2

7/22/77

George E. Martin
Martin Coins
Box 31305
El Paso, TX 79931

Dear George:

Thank you for your letter of 7/11 with the enclosed 1837 half dollar.

Frankly, I'm not qualified to pass on whether this is a genuine coin or not, as this is out of my area of specialization. From what I can see, it appears genuine. The weight is within specs at 203.8 grains. I'd suggest sending it to someone who specializes in the early half dollars - and I'd appreciate a copy of their findings as well.

From my standpoint, the coin has a repunched date, with 83/83, and if genuine will be listed in the CONE Register as B-01 for the date. I've taken a photo of the date, and will send along a copy as soon as they are processed.

Sorry I can't be of more help on it.

Sincerely,

Letter from Alan Herbert to George Martin. July 22, 1977



Photograph of the '83' in the date, by Alan Herbert.

The photograph Herbert took clearly shows the repunching, however, it did not satisfy any inquiry whether the coin was bogus or not. (In later years, while the repunching proved insignificant, the 3 punch itself was identified as exclusively used among a number of bogus half dollar dies, confirming the belief that they were the work of one very successful counterfeiter.)

Between 1976 and 1978, counterfeit specialist Larry Spanbauer* wrote a column in Numismatic News entitled "Focusing on Fakes". George Martin recognized that perhaps Larry would be just the person he needed to give him an answer on the half dollar. On October 12, 1977 he sent the coin to Larry along with this note:

Dear Larry,

Please find enclosed an odd half dollar. Got it in a large collection. The collection had many raities (SIC) all which turned out to be genuine. Can you shed any light on this coin.(?) Alan had looked at it and photographed it, but could come with no info on it.

Also can you.....

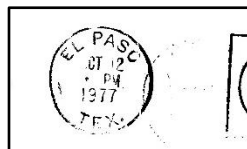
Thanking you in advance.

Regards,

George E. Martin



*Martin Coins
P.O. Box 31305
El Paso, Tex. 79931*



Dear Larry,

Please find enclosed an odd half dollar. Got it in a large collection. The collection had many raities all which turned out to be genuine. Can you shed any light on this coin. Alan had looked at it and photographed it, but could come with no info on it.

Also can you tell me if Lowell Knomiller (Numismatically Yours) is still doing business in Oshkosh? We are old high school and Army friends.

Thanking you in advance.

Regards,

George E. Martin
George E. Martin

Letter from George Martin to Larry Spanbauer. Inset, envelope postmark; October 12, 1977

George's assertion that all of the other coins in the collection he acquired "turned out to be genuine" likely gave him hope that the half dollar was genuine as well.

Larry studied the coin carefully and realized that it coincided with a number of other 1837 half dollars that were currently being reported. He sent the coin to Numismatic News to be photographed and used the topic for his November 26, 1977 "Focusing on Fakes" column, excerpted here:

FLOOD OF FAKE HALVES REPORTED

Since doing my October 8, 1977 article on German Silver three cent pieces, I have received a number of interesting letters concerning Bust half dollar counterparts. The most interesting piece of mail came from a Texas dealer who included the item pictured with this article. Dated 1837, it has on its reverse the denomination of '50 C'. This type of denomination was last used on the 1836 half dollar, the 1837 pieces having the word 'cents' spelled out. This counterfeit piece also has a lettered edge, which was replaced in that year by a reeded edge. Finally, the size of the spurious piece is three millimeters larger than the genuine issues minted in 1837. If only one piece such as this one had surfaced, I wouldn't have given it a second thought. However, similar pieces have been reported being sold in other parts of the country. This could mean one of two things.

First, someone in the hobby could be selling a rather large collection of these pieces, or secondly, someone has discovered that a rather handsome profit can be made by passing modern copies as earlier contemporary counterfeits. Whatever the case, it appears a considerable number of these 'bogus busties' are being offered for sale to the numismatic fraternity. The German silver half dollars I have examined usually have characteristics denoting them as spurious. The color is steel-gray rather than toned silver. The feel of the coin often makes it suspicious. The weights often vary by as much as 25%, both high and low. The design itself can often make you suspect that the coin is not genuine.

It should be remembered that these bogus half dollars are die-struck and that the original pieces were probably a product of our neighbor to the south. Also they were produced between 50 and 100 years ago and were probably minted in the thousands.

While Larry was certain of the fact that this was a counterfeit coin, he was unconvinced that it was a 'contemporary counterfeit', that is, one that was made in the 1830s, 40s, or 50s. He speculated rather, that this piece was between 50 and 100 years old, which at the time would have been between 1870 and 1930, suggesting that perhaps these were made to *pass* as fakes that were manufactured much earlier. He also suggests that they originated in Mexico. Both are plausible determinations.

Flood of Fake Halves Reported

For the Oct. 8, 1977, issue of *Numismatic News*, I wrote an article concerning the counterfeit Three-Cent Pieces made of German silver. In this article, I lightly touched on the more common bust half dollars made of a similar metal. It was not my intention to do an article on these "Bogus Busties" so soon, but a series of events makes it necessary to do so.

My first exposure to these pieces was probably through a book printed in 1963 by Don Taxay entitled "Counterfeit Mis-Struck and Unofficial U.S. Coins." In this book, 15 different pieces of these counterfeit half dollars are pictured, along with a detailed account of the flaws that can be found on each. This offering was an excellent introduction to this aspect of our hobby, but a more detailed account is needed.

In late 1976, the following ad appeared in *The Numismatist*, the official publication of the American Numismatic Association. "Counterfeit Bust Halves. I'm doing an extensive study and would appreciate hearing from owners of bogus pieces." To date, such a study has not been released, but the interest is certainly there. Hopefully, some sort of publication will come from this Oklahoma collector.

Since doing the article concerning the German silver 3¢ pieces, I have received a number of interesting letters concerning Bust half dollar counterparts. The most interesting piece of mail came from a Texas dealer who included the item pictured with this article. The piece is dated 1837. It has on the reverse the denomination of "50 C." This type of denomination was last used on the 1836 half dollar, the 1837 pieces having the word "cents" spelled out. This counterfeit piece also has a lettered edge, which was also replaced in that year by a reeded one. Finally the size of the spurious piece is three millimeters larger than the genuine issues minted in 1837.

The illustrated piece was a part of a rather large collection which contained many rarities, all of which turned out to genuine except for this item.

Supposedly, all the coins were originally purchased prior to 1965.

If only one piece such as this one had surfaced, I wouldn't have given it a second thought. However, similar pieces have been reported being sold in other parts of the country. This could mean one of two things.

First, someone in the hobby could be selling a rather large collection of these pieces, or secondly, someone has discovered that a rather handsome profit can be made by passing modern copies as earlier contemporary counterfeits.

(FAKES, Page 36)

Focusing on Fakes

By Larry Spanbauer



A rash of obviously fake 1837 half dollars have been appearing on the market recently, billed as contemporary counterfeits.

FAKES

(From Page 26)

Whatever the case, it appears a considerable number of these "bogus busties" are being offered for sale to the numismatic fraternity. A plus on the side of the collector is that most of these pieces should be easily discernible.

The German silver half dollars I have examined usually have a characteristic denoting them as spurious. The color is often steel-grey, rather than toned silver. Even the feel of the coin often makes it suspicious. The weights often vary by as much as 25 %, both high

or low. The design itself can often make you suspect that the coin is not genuine.

It should be remembered that these bogus half dollars are die-struck and that the original pieces were probably a product of our neighbor to the south. Also they were produced between 50 and 100 years ago and were probably minted by the thousands.

I think that it is only fitting to end this column with a word of thanks to those individuals who wrote concerning these counterfeit half dollars and a special thank you to my new friend in Texas who supplied me with the superb specimen.

Larry Spanbauer's 'Focusing on Fakes' column in *Numismatic News* dated November 26, 1977. He discusses counterfeit bust half dollars and displays a photograph of the 1837 piece which is the subject of the present article.

Some thirty years later, Keith Davignon's* research prompted him to draw some more conclusions about these 1837 halves in his 'Contemporary Counterfeit Capped Bust Half Dollars'. Dubbed the 'Too Legit to Quit' die grouping, under Davignon's numbering system, the 1833 1/A, 1836 5/E, 1837 2/B, and 1838 3/C shared the same reverse die and "the central device reveals that the working dies were prepared from a hub. The E in LIBERTY is tilted identically with a clockwise rotation on all the pieces. The 3 punch in the date is also the same for each die in this group." He continues, "This artist was probably the most prolific and successful of all, as these pieces are by far the most common of all bogus bust half dollars. The 'Too Legit to Quit' nickname comes from the fact that this guy was too busy to notice the switch to reeded edges in 1837!" These are exceptionally well-done counterfeits and there was a time they received a fair amount of speculation by some who were wishful that they were United States Mint experimental die trial pieces.

On May 15, 1978 Larry sent the coin back to Mr. Martin with the following note:

Dear Mr. Martin,

Enclosed please find the 1837 half dollar which you sent to me.
I am sorry to have to return it since it is a nice specimen of a German Silver counterfeit.

Am willing to pay for it if it becomes available. Keep me in mind.

Best Wishes

-Larry

P.S. I believe that I sent you a copy of the Nov. 26 1977 issue of Numismatic News which carried an article about this piece and others like it. It photographed well.

May 15, 1978

Dear Mr. Martin,

Enclosed, please find the 1837 half dollar which you sent to me.

I am sorry to have to return it since it is a nice specimen of a German Silver counterfeit.

Am willing to pay for it if it becomes available. Keep me in mind.

Best wishes
Larry

P.S. I believe that I sent you a copy of the Nov. 26, 1977 issue of Numismatic News which carried an article about this piece + others like it. It photographed well.

Letter from Larry Spanbauer to George Martin. May 15, 1978.

Seemingly, this concluded the saga of this particular 1837 bogus half dollar, until that day some ten years later when Larry mysteriously received the package containing the coin and all of the related correspondence, and no letter of explanation within. Of course it jarred his memory, but his attempts to reach Mr. Martin were unsuccessful. Thus, he held onto it as a memento of one of the many good times he had in numismatics.

Fast forward to spring 2014. A chance meeting with Mr. Spanbauer at a gas station brought me to understand that he was having a rummage sale at his home in the near future. It would include many numismatic items, including a few coins, many tokens, and some exonomia. He offered me a 'sneak peek' the evening before the sale which I promptly accepted. Not seeing any bust coinage, my interest centered on Oshkosh Civil War Tokens, and then he surprised me with an envelope containing three letters of correspondence from the 1970's, a photograph, and a terrific 1837 counterfeit Capped Bust Half!!! Thus, I became the caretaker of this treasured package.

This story is not unique in the annals of 1837 counterfeit half dollars. As Davignon points out, *"these pieces are by far the most common of all bogus bust half dollars"*. Now readily known as 1837 variety D 2/B, I'm sure there were many of these coins passed between numismatists to be analyzed, and it seems during this period of time in the 1970's there was a great number of these coins circulating, which caused speculation across the numismatic community as to their origin and authenticity. What sets this piece apart from the others, at least for me, is the documentation that accompanies it.



1837 Counterfeit Capped Bust Half Dollar photographed by the author. Note the large planchet flaw above the eagle which is also visible on the photocopy of the 11/26/777 Numismatic News article.



Photograph with mirrored image of the edge lettering.

* Alan Herbert continued to write about the hobby right up to his death in 2013 at age 86. A life member of the ANA, he served on the board of governors on two occasions and was the recipient of that organizations prestigious honors; the Medal of Merit in 1994 and the Glenn Smedley award in 2001. The Numismatic Literary Guild awarded him the Clemy in 1997 and Numismatic News named him Numismatic Ambassador in 2004.

* CONE = Collectors of Numismatic Errors – a forerunner of today's CONECA = Combined Organizations of Numismatic Error Collectors of America.

* Larry Spanbauer of Oshkosh, WI was one of the leading counterfeit experts of the time. In 1975 he self-published the book, 'Colonial Copies, Private Mint Replicas, Modern Counterfeits of United States Coins'. He wrote the "Focusing on Fakes" column for Krause Publications through 1978, and in 1979 he and co-author Virgil Hancock wrote the 'Standard Catalog of United States Altered and Counterfeit Coins', published by Durst. The first catalog of its type and very useful for the time, however, the publishing process and final, difficult to follow format, discontented Spanbauer and he ultimately retreated from the hobby. He is now a leading scholar and memorabilia expert of Oshkosh, Wisconsin history.

* Keith Davignon is a researcher and author of 'Contemporary Counterfeit Capped Bust Half Dollars', considered the 'bible' of the subject. First published in 1996 it was a breakthrough for those who were interested in the genre. An extensively updated 2nd edition was published in 2010.

-Photograph of the '83' taken by Alan Herbert circa 1977.

-Photographs of the coin taken by the author.

-This article originally published in the John Reich Journal, November 2014, Volume 24, Issue 3.



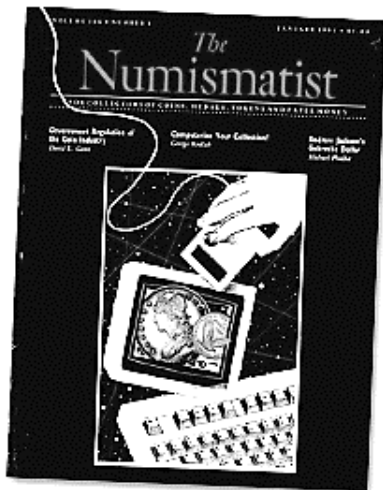
ANA NEWS



127 Years of *The Numismatist* Now Available Digitally

The American Numismatic Association is excited to announce its digital archives of all 127 volumes of its flagship publication, *The Numismatist*. Beginning December 1, ANA members can access every issue of the magazine, from 1888 to the present.

The ANA's digital archives of *The Numismatist* is a one-stop hobby reference, helping collectors expand their numismatic knowledge base. Free access to this historical database is included as a benefit of ANA membership.

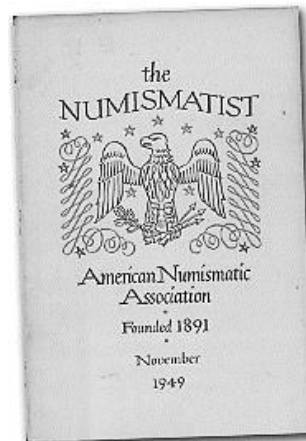


The online editions look exactly like the printed originals, allowing users to experience *The Numismatist* in its historical context. Each archived page can be downloaded and printed, as well as bookmarked, cited and referenced by other registered users. Helpful search features guide readers to the information they seek, including relevant links to useful resources, an easily accessible table of contents, and indices with live links.

For coin collectors studying a recent purchase, a numismatic auction house researching an upcoming catalog, or a student writing a paper on world currencies and economies, *The*

Numismatist is a trusted repository of classic articles and hidden gems on all things money.

It's easy for ANA members to get started enjoying this amazing resource. Simply log into to the ANA website and follow the prompts to register.



David Sklow to manage Dwight N. Manley Library

Renowned bibliophile David Sklow has joined the American Numismatic Association staff as the manager of the Dwight N. Manley Library. Sklow will oversee and manage the library and its assets.

During his previous ANA employment, he served in a similar capacity as Director of the Library and Research Center, and was responsible for coordinating publications of the ANA Journal, a scholarly numismatic periodical. He has served as the ANA Historian, a position he held for more than 11 years. Sklow continues to inspire junior collectors at the annual ANA Summer Seminar as the Numismatic Literature instructor.

"It's great to be back, and moving forward," said David. "Books are the pathway to knowledge."

Involved in coin collecting for more than 50 years, Sklow started in the hobby as a casual collector but ultimately became a renowned historian, and an expert of numismatic literature.

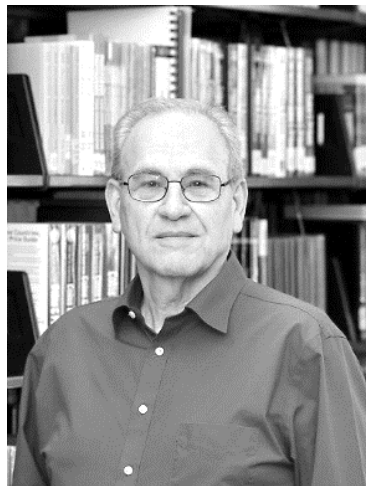
After a career in the U.S. Air Force, Sklow's numismatic career took flight in 1992 when he opened Treasured Books. In 1998 he became partner of The Money Tree. Most recently, Sklow owned Fine Numismatic Books, a full service numismatic literature auction business.

An ANA life member, Sklow is a Charter and Life member of the Numismatic Bibliomania Society. His other memberships include the Numismatic Literary Guild, Early American Coppers, and the American Philatelic Society. He is the past President for the Ocala Coin Club, and the former Secretary/Treasurer for the Token and Medal Society.

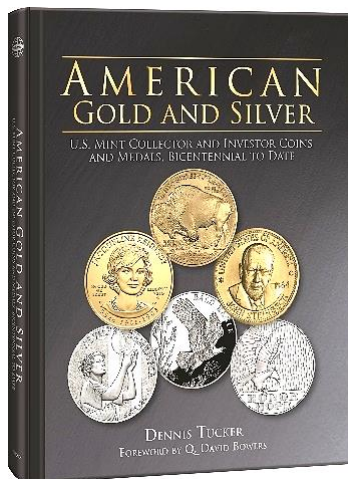
Sklow is a recipient of the Numismatic Ambassador Award, ANA Glenn Smedley Award, ANA Century Club Award, ANA Presidential Award, and the ANA Medal of Merit Award. He was awarded the Aaron Feldman Memorial Award for his first place exhibit displaying ANA membership directories in 2001.

All ANA members can use the Library resources. You can check out books through the mail, request research assistance, get photocopies, etc. Just log into the website and go to the 'Discover' tab, scroll down to 'Library' to learn more.

This Holiday season, consider giving the gift of ANA membership to your numismatic loved ones.



BOOKS!



AMERICAN GOLD AND SILVER: *U.S. Mint Collector and Investor Coins and Medals, Bicentennial to Date*

Whitman Publishing announces the upcoming release of *American Gold and Silver: U.S. Mint Collector and Investor Coins and Medals, Bicentennial to Date*, by Dennis Tucker. The 384-page hardcover book will be available December 15, 2015, from booksellers and hobby shops nationwide, and online, for \$29.95. It can also be borrowed for free as a benefit of membership in the American Numismatic Association, through the Dwight N. Manley Numismatic Library.

“Every coin collector knows about the United States Mint’s American Eagle bullion coins,” says award-winning author Dennis Tucker. “But did

you know that the Mint has produced more than 150 other collectible works of silver and gold since the national Bicentennial in 1976?” These include some of the most beautiful coins and medals ever engraved for the United States. Some were runaway best-sellers and made national headlines. Others are well-kept secrets. Many are sought by collectors and investors around the globe. Some are “sleepers”—underappreciated treasures with great potential waiting to be discovered.

Tucker shares years of research and unique perspective in a colorful exploration of these amazing pieces of Americana. He takes you into the engraving department of the U.S. Mint, behind the scenes at the U.S. Treasury, into the chambers of Congress, even to the White House, where questions about the nation’s precious metals have been argued for generations.

Inside you’ll find a richly illustrated history of silver and gold in the coinage of colonial America and the United States. You’ll see why silver and gold were difficult for the average American to acquire through most of our history. Learn about the American Arts gold medallion program of the early 1980s, and the U.S. Mint’s recent American Buffalo, First Spouse, and America the Beautiful bullion programs. Dozens of other important modern productions all are cataloged and described inside: Bicentennial gold and silver medals, the 2014 gold Kennedy half dollar, 1916–2016 centennial gold coins, silver Wildlife Refuge Service medals, the 9/11 national medal, the Franklin Firefighter medal, Young Astronauts medals, and many more. Along the way Tucker shines light on a thousand people, places, and points in American history: military heroes and famous artists, awe-inspiring landmarks, fearless innovators, dreamers and doers. He presents market histories and gives valuable advice on collecting and investing.

American Gold and Silver: U.S. Mint Collector and Investor Coins and Medals, Bicentennial to Date

By Dennis Tucker; foreword by Q. David Bowers. ISBN 079484237-2

Hardcover, 8.5 x 11 inches, 384 pages, full color. Retail \$29.95 U.S. For more info or to order go to Whitman.com

